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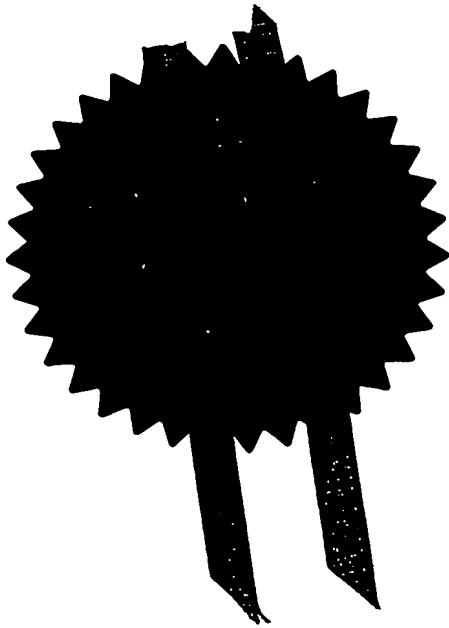
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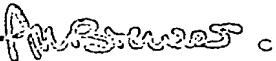
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1/77

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form.)

23 OCT 2003

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
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Fee: £0

1. Your reference

46806.GB01

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0324767.3

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

The Company of Animals Limited
Ruxbury Farm
St. Annes Hill Road
Chertsey
Surrey KT16 9NL

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

08292898001

ENGLAND

4. Title of the invention

ANIMAL HARNESS

5. Full name, address and postcode in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence relating to this form and translation should be sent

Reddie & Grose
16 Theobalds Road
LONDON
WC1X 8PL

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

91001 ✓

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country Priority application (If you know it) Date of filing (day/month/year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application Date of filing (day/month/year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:
 a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
 See note (d))

YES

Patents Form 1/77

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Description	6
Claim(s)	3
Abstract	-
Drawing(s)	3 <i>2</i>

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Priority documents -
Translations of priority documents -
Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77) -
Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77) -
Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77) -
Any other documents (please specify) -

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Date
23 October 2003



N S MARLOW
020-7242 0901

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom -

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ANIMAL HARNESS

The present invention relates to a harness for animals, especially quadruped animals, and finds particular application in harnesses for dogs.

Conventionally a dog is led by a leading strap, or lead, attached to a collar around the neck of the dog. A lead and collar is to an extent effective to restrain a dog, although it can be uncomfortable for a dog which pulls against the lead, but this arrangement cannot be used to guide the dog to turn to the left or right; it can only be used to pull the dog to the left or right. Harnesses which pass around the body of the dog and to which a lead is attached to the middle of the harness strap across the back of the dog are also known. Such a harness is effective to restrain a dog but again can only be used to pull a dog to the left or right, not to guide it.

A dog halter mounted around the nose and neck of the dog is also known. A neck loop is attached to a nose loop by cheek straps running between the neck and nose loops and a chin strap running between the neck loop and a cinch around the nose loop under the jaw of the dog. A lead is attached to the loop which passes through the cinch. Such a halter is sold under the registered trade mark HALTI. This halter allows a dog to be restrained without discomfort to the dog and to be guided to the left or right, as the dog's head can be turned to the left or right by pulling on the lead.

It has been desired to provide a harness which can restrain a dog without discomfort and which can be used to guide the dog to the left or right, rather than simply pulling it. Harnesses may be preferable to halters for some dogs and other animals since the force exerted on the dog by the halter is spread over a wider and stronger part of the body.

of the dog. A dog harness provided by Soft Touch Concepts of Fremont, California, USA has an attachment point for a lead which is fixed on a strap which lies across the chest of the dog. However, when the lead is pulled to the left or right to turn the dog, the harness has a tendency to rotate around the dog which reduces its effectiveness and may be uncomfortable for the dog.

According to the invention there is provided a harness for a quadruped animal including a chest strap which in use of the harness lies across the chest of the animal in front of the forelegs, the harness including an attachment for a leading strap, the attachment being slidably mounted on the chest strap for movement therealong. Preferably, each end of the chest strap is attached to a trunk loop which in use of the harness passes around the trunk of the animal behind the forelegs. The trunk loop preferably comprises a back strap which in use of the harness lies across the back of the animal pivotably affixed to a lower strap which in use of the harness passes under the animal behind the forelegs.

Particularly preferably, the harness includes a stabilising strap, one end of which is mounted on the chest strap and the other end of which is adapted to be attached in use of the harness to a collar around the neck of the animal. More preferably, the stabilising strap is slidably mounted on the chest strap for movement therealong, and yet more preferably the attachment for a leading strap and the stabilising strap are connected so as to move together along the chest strap.

The straps of the harness may be of a webbing material or any other material appropriate for use in animal harness. Preferably, the material for the chest strap is chosen so that the attachment for the leading strap cannot move along it so easily that the harness is ineffective to guide the animal (in the manner described below in the description of

a preferred embodiment). Synthetic webbing such as a polyester webbing has been found to be a suitable material for the chest strap.

5 Also according to the invention there is provided a method of controlling a dog or other quadruped animal comprising placing a harness according to any preceding claim on the animal and attaching a leading strap to the attachment on the chest strap.

10 The invention will be further described with reference to the drawings in which:

15 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a harness according to a preferred embodiment of the invention;
Figure 2 is a side elevation of the harness of Figure 1; and
Figure 3 shows the harness of Figures 1 and 2 on a dog.

20 The harness 10 of the preferred embodiment of the invention shown in the drawings is for a dog. It comprises a chest strap 12 each end of which is attached to a trunk strap 14 by one of two pivot rings 16 in the trunk strap. The trunk strap 14 comprises a back strap 18 attached at each end to an end of a lower strap 20 by the pivot rings 16. The lower strap 20 includes a clasp 22 by which it can be opened.

25 The loop 24 of the chest strap which passes through the cinch ring 26 is prevented from passing back through the cinch ring by a lead ring 28 to which a lead 30 can be attached; the portion of the chest strap forming the loop 24 passes through the lead ring 28. The lead ring 28 is of a diameter to prevent the cinch ring 26 from coming off the chest strap 12.

A stabilising strap 32 is attached to the cinch ring 26 and has an openable spring clip 34 on its free end. The stabilising strap 32 is of such a length that when in place on a dog, the clip 34 can be attached to a ring 36 which is slidable on the collar 38 of a dog 40, as can be seen in Figure 3, so that in use the chest strap 12 is in the correct position across the chest of a dog 40.

The straps 12, 18, 20, 32 forming the harness 10 are of a webbing material. The width and thickness of the straps will depend upon the size and strength of the dog for which the harness is intended. Typically, the width of the straps is from 1 cm to 3 cm and the thickness of the straps is about 1 mm. The chest 12, back 18 and lower 20 straps of the harness are provided with length adjusters 44 so that the harness can accommodate a range of sizes of dogs; the stabilising 32 strap 10 can also be provided with an adjuster.

The lead 30, the ring 36 on the collar 38, the collar 38 and the dog 40 shown in Figure 3 form no part of the present invention.

In use, as can be seen in Figure 3, the harness 10 is placed on the dog 40 so that the chest strap 12 passes across the chest of the dog in front of its forelegs 42, the back strap 18 passes over the back of the dog in the region of its forelegs 42 and the lower strap 20 passes under the dog immediately behind its forelegs 42. The clasp 22 in the lower strap 20 is opened to allow the harness to be placed around the dog 40 and closed when the harness is in position on the dog.

The clip 34 on the end of the stabilising strap 32 is attached to a ring 36 slidable on a collar 38 around the neck of the dog. The stabilising strap 32 helps to maintain

the chest strap 12 in the correct position across the chest of the dog. A lead 30 is attached to the lead ring 28 on the loop 24 of the chest strap 12 which passes through the cinch ring 26.

5

When a dog wearing the harness 10 is being walked, the lead 30 can be held to either the left or right side of the dog. In normal forward walking, the cinch ring 26 and the lead ring 28 will lie midway across the chest of the dog. If the dog pulls against the lead, it is readily restrained; the stabilising strap 32 prevents the chest strap 12 from slipping back on the chest of the dog in this situation. It has been found that a dog wearing a harness 10 is less likely to pull against the lead than if it is being led otherwise.

To turn the dog in the direction of the side of the dog to which the lead passes, the lead is pulled gently in that direction. This causes the back strap 18 to apply gentle pressure to the dog in the region of its opposite shoulder and the dog is encouraged to turn toward the lead. At the same time, slippage of the harness 10 around the body of the dog is avoided by the lead ring 26 and the cinch ring 24, and so the stabilising strap 32, sliding along the chest strap 12 of the harness in the direction in which the lead is being pulled. The arrangement of the cinch ring 24 and the lead ring 26 means that the rings do not slide entirely freely on the chest strap 12, but slide sufficiently to avoid slippage of the harness while gentle pressure is applied to the opposite shoulder of the dog by the back strap 18. Again, the chest strap 32 is restrained against backward movement on the dog's chest by the stabilising strap 32.

35 To turn the dog in the other direction, the lead can be brought across in front of the dog so that it passes to the

other side of the dog; the turning process is then as described above. Alternatively, the lead can remain on the same side of the dog, that is the side opposite to which the dog is to turn. The lead is gently pulled against the neck of the dog to urge it to turn away from the lead.

5 If a dog wearing a harness 10 is reluctant to walk forward, it can be encouraged to do so by gentle pulling of the lead.

10 The pivot rings 16 in the trunk strap 14 to which the chest 12, back 18 and lower 20 straps are attached allows the straps to move relative to each other without distortion and so allows the harness to flex as the dog moves while the straps remain substantially flat on the dog's body.

15 The present invention thus provides a harness for dogs and quadruped animals which allows an animal to be readily and effectively controlled by means of a lead without inflicting discomfort on the animal.

CLAIMS

1. A harness for a quadruped animal including a chest strap which in use of the harness lies across the chest of the animal in front of the forelegs the harness including an attachment for a leading strap, the attachment being slidably mounted on the chest strap for movement therealong.
2. A harness according to claim 1 in which the attachment for a leading strap is a ring through which the chest strap passes.
3. A harness according to claim 1 or 2 further comprising a stabilising strap one end of which is mounted on the chest strap and the other end of which is adapted to be attached in use of the harness to a collar around the neck of the animal.
4. A harness according to claim 3 in which the stabilising strap is slidably mounted on the chest strap for movement therealong.
5. A harness according to claim 4 in which the attachment for a leading strap and the stabilising strap are connected so as to be able to move together along the chest strap.
6. A harness according to claim 3, 4 or 5 in which the stabilising strap is attached to a cinch through which a loop of the chest strap passes.
7. A harness according to claim 6 in which the attachment for a leading strap is mounted on the said loop of the chest strap whereby the cinch is retained on the chest strap.

8. A harness according to any preceding claim further comprising a trunk loop which to which each end of the chest strap is attached, the trunk strap in use of the harness passing around the trunk of the animal behind the forelegs.

5

9. A harness according to claim 8 in which the trunk loop comprises a back strap which in use of the harness lies across the back of the animal pivotably affixed to a lower strap which in use of the harness passes under the animal

10 behind the forelegs.

15

10. A harness according to claim 9 in which the ends of the chest strap are pivotably attached to the trunk strap where the back strap meets the lower strap.

11. A harness according to claim 8, 9 or 10 in which the trunk strap includes a clasp by which it can be opened to in use of the harness allow the harness to be placed on or removed from an animal.

20

12. A harness according to any preceding claim in which the length of at least one strap is adjustable.

13. A harness according to any preceding claim for a dog.

25

14. A harness according to any preceding claim in which the attachment for the leading strap is constrained against free movement along the chest strap.

30

15. A harness according to any preceding claim in which the chest strap is of a polyester webbing.

16. A harness substantially as described with reference to the drawings.

35

17. A method of controlling a dog or other quadruped animal comprising:

 placing a harness according to any preceding claim on the animal; and

 5 attaching a leading strap to the attachment on the chest strap.

18. A method of controlling a dog substantially as described.

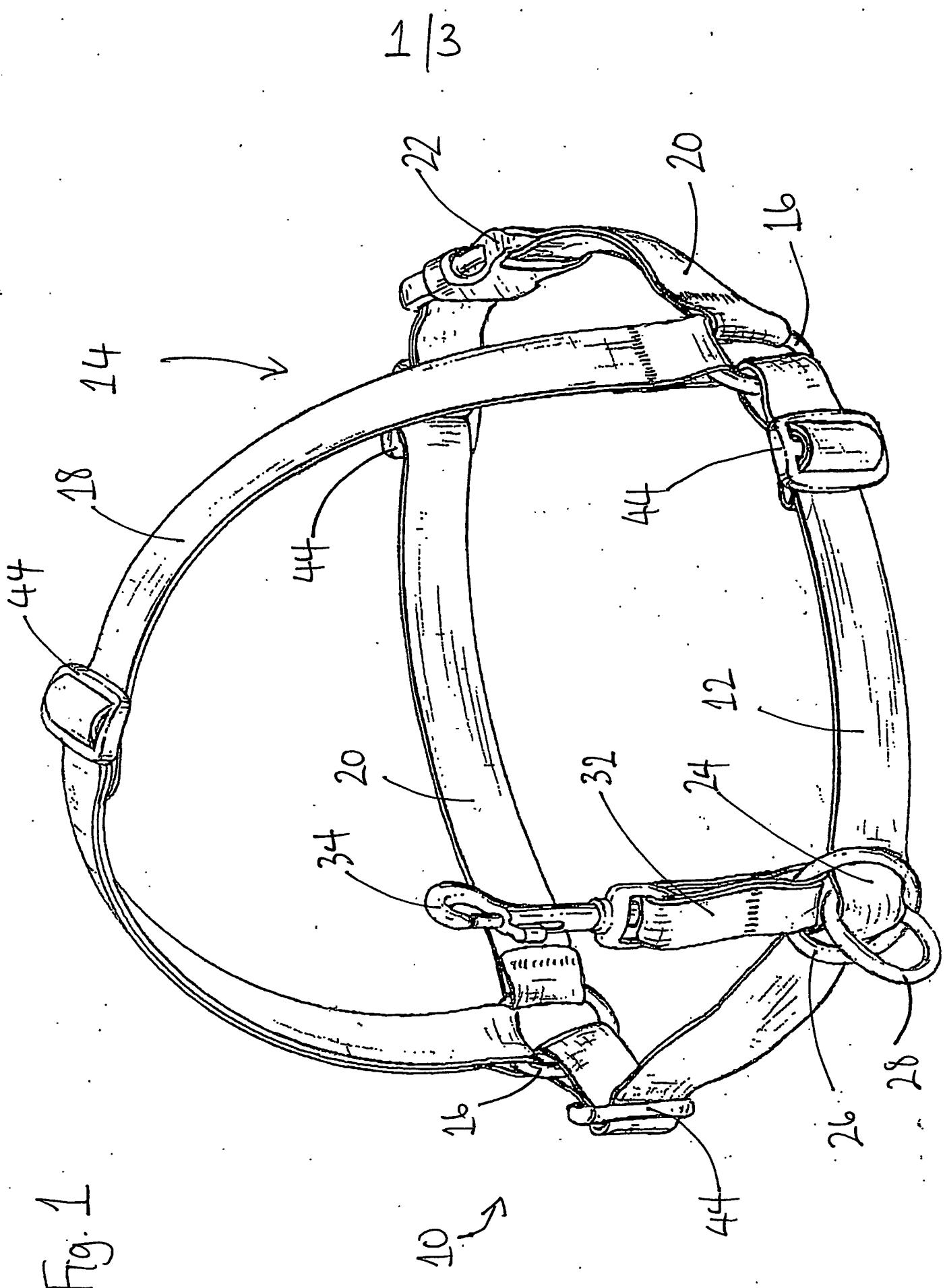


Fig. 1

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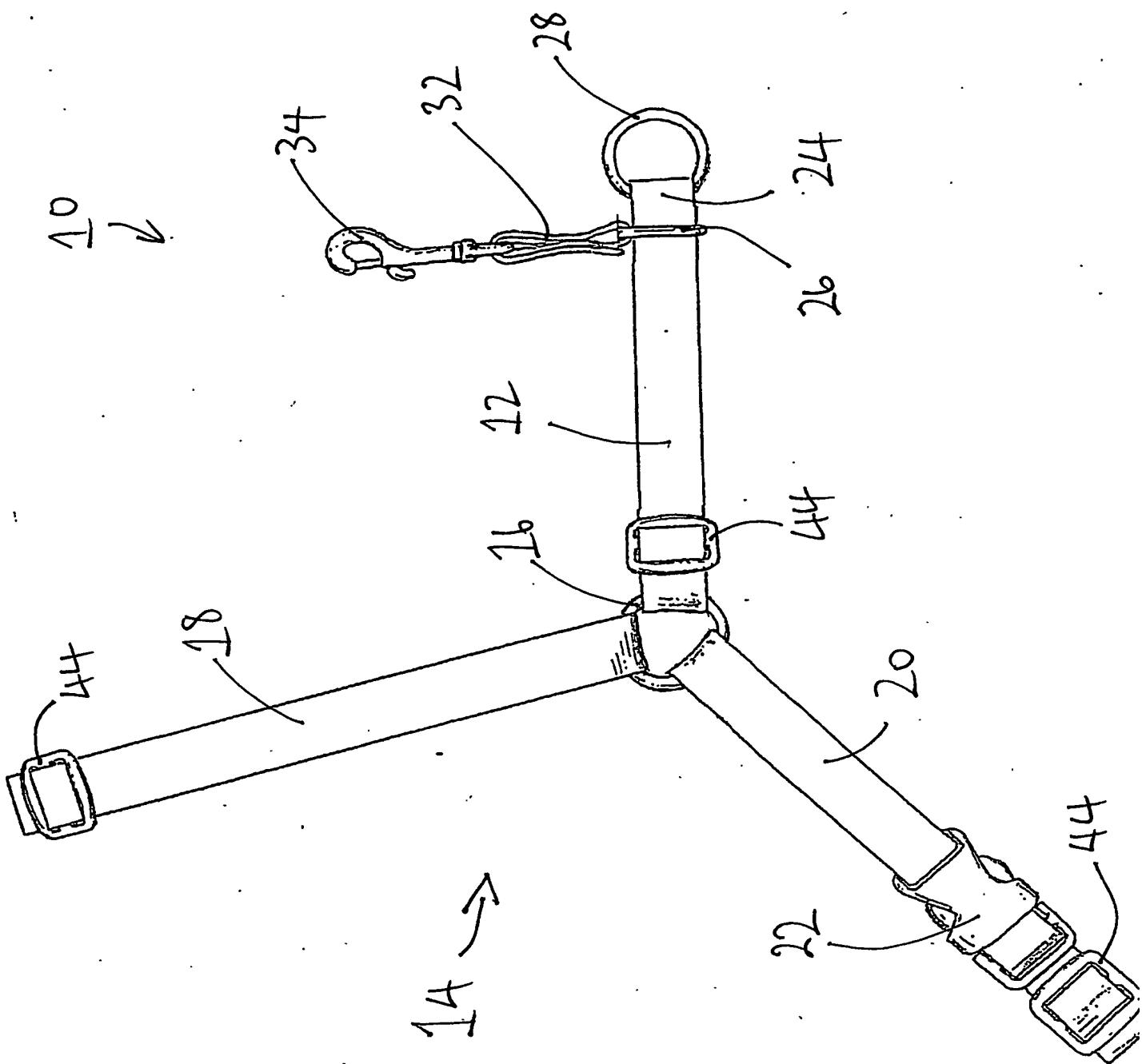


Fig. 2.

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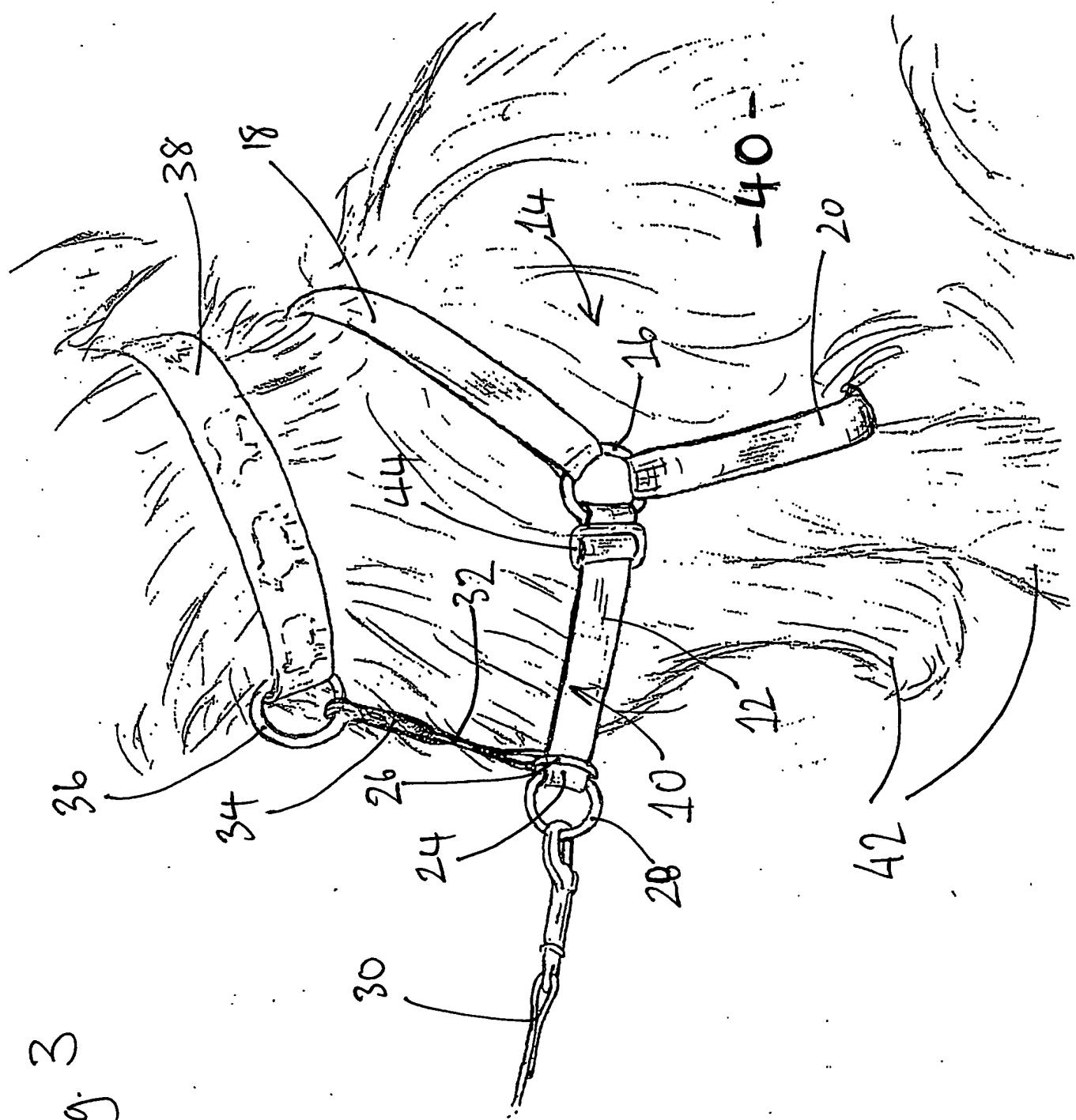


Fig. 3

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